



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 24, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

**SUBJECT:** Presentation on Michigan Migrant Education Program

Michigan is a leader in the American agricultural industry. The unique geographic location leads to a wealth of field and tree crops as well as dairy and poultry farms and nurseries. In order to support Michigan's agricultural process, the growers rely on temporary and seasonal labor bringing the necessary skills to plant, care for, and harvest the crops and support animal-based farms. This labor force is comprised of migrant workers who either reside in Michigan or travel to the state from nearly all the other states, Mexico, Honduras, and Guatemala. Most of the Michigan migrant workers come from Mexico, Texas, and Florida. Many of those who come to Michigan for the growing season, bring their children who are then enrolled in Michigan schools. The migrant students may be enrolled in a school for two days, two weeks, or longer. The purpose of the Migrant Education Program (MEP) is to unify the learning of the student from one site to another across district, state, and international boundaries.

In Michigan there are 41 local and regional programs serving 120 districts. Additionally, the statewide identification and recruitment program serves another 95 districts where the migrant population is not large enough to support a formal migrant program. The MEP works to unify support for student educational, health, and personal needs so that they can participate fully in the local educational program. Department staff provides the leadership across the state in the effort to help local districts cope with the issues faced by the district as well as the students and their families.

The MEP staff will give a presentation regarding the program, the students, the issues, and efforts that are underway to provide a system of services linked to other states and countries.

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